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Fact of the Matter WTTW-TV

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COMMENTS ON C.I.A. MONEY IN LABOR & CULTURAL GROUPS

HARRY HOMEWOOD: "It used to be that there were two silent services, submarines and the Central Intelligence Agency. The C.I.A., however, isn't very silent these days. Its former members talk, and sometimes what they say is embarrassing, not only to the C.I.A. but to the United States.

"Last week a former C.I.A. official became annoyed because some groups which had accepted C.I.A. money were critical of the C.I.A.. So the former C.I.A. man began to name names. He said that prominent American labor leaders had been given C.I.A. funds. He said also that a group of American and European intellectuals, which was called a Congress For Cultural Freedom, and a well-known magazine named Encounter had also received C.I.A. funds.o The statement had some contradictory results.

"George Meany, the president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. called the statement about organized labor receiving C.I.A. money a 'damn lie.' Walter Reuther, head of the United Auto Workers said it was true. Victor Reuther, his brother, a U.A.W. official, who is supposed to have received the C.I.A. money, said the statement was incredible and ridiculous. The cultural group is in an uproar, and the magazine is reportedly tearing its pages out in rage.

"The fact of the matter is that C.I.A. had dohhinothing really wrong in seeing to it that what it called 'worthy organizations' received money through dummy corporations, charitable institutions, and other devices. The sole objective of the C.I.A. was to fight the cold war and communism on yet another front. But the C.I.A. made a grave mistake. The organizations it picked to help were trying to get across to the East the idea that in a free world private organizations and institutions were not kept handmaidens of government. Now in most cases these organizations didn't know they were being given money that came from the C.I.A.. While,winn those few organizations that did know it turned out that the knowledge was confined to a very few top officials.

"The lines of difference between the East and West have now been unnecessarily smeared and a lot of sincere people have been left standing with egg on their face. Only two things do come through:

one is that you can't keep people from talking in the free world, and it is certain that the C.I.A. will keep trying, by some other means, to do what it feels it has to do, as it has in the past, and it won't tell Congress, or the American public, just what it's doing."